

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. All claims were rejected, and all rejections are traversed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS -- 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Teper* (U.S. Patent No. 5,815,665, hereinafter *Teper*).

Independent claim 1 requires, among other limitations, that the services are provided within an enterprise common operating environment. Independent claims 8 and 15 include similar limitations. These limitations are not taught or suggested by *Teper*.

Teper does disclose a system that appears to centrally manage billing and authorization (collectively, “brokering”) for various service providers (SPs). However, *Teper* teaches in column 4 that each of the services are actually provided by different, individual web sites, and not in an enterprise common operating environment, as described and claimed in the present application. In fact, this teaching of *Teper* is directly away from an enterprise common operating environment.

The present Office Action does not address this limitation at all, and it appears that the Examiner must have overlooked it. As such, this is not even a *prima facie* anticipation rejection.

As a limitation of each of the independent claims is not taught or suggested by the art of record, all claims distinguish over the cited art, and all claims should be allowed.

All rejections are traversed, and prompt reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

As a result of the foregoing, the Applicant asserts that the remaining Claims in the Application are in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an early allowance of such Claims.

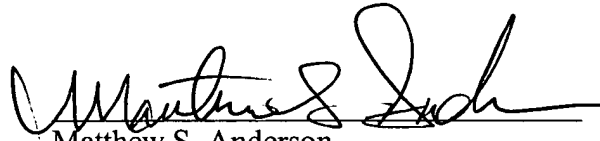
If any issues arise, or if the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of this Application, the Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below or at *manderson@davismunck.com*.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees connected with this communication or credit any overpayment to Davis Munck Deposit Account No. 50-0208.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVIS MUNCK BUTRUS, P.C.

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Matthew S. Anderson
Reg. No. 39,093

P.O. Drawer 800889
Dallas, Texas 75380
Phone: (972) 628-3600
Fax: (972) 628-3616
E-mail: *manderson@davismunck.com*